

2013 WISCONSIN ACT 59

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TECHNICAL INCENTIVE GRANTS

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Q: What is the purpose of the CTE Incentive Grants?

The intent of the legislation is to support and strengthen quality CTE programming that result in industry-recognized certifications that help to mitigate workforce shortages.

There are a number of certification programs available locally and nationally. However, the ones listed on the approved CTE Technical Incentive Grant Certifications list include rigorous and valid certification programs that have value in an employer setting.

Q: How can my school district begin offering CTE programs that lead to state-approved industry-recognized certifications?

DPI suggests that you start with examining your current CTE courses to determine if there is an opportunity to enhance programming by aligning and offering any of the certifications listed. One type of program that is well established and offers flexibility in how students may demonstrate proficiency of competencies includes the State of Wisconsin Workbased Learning Certifications. These certifications include: [State Certified Cooperative Education Skill Standards Programs \(DPI\)](#) or [Youth Apprenticeship \(DWD\)](#).

Q: Who is eligible to receive these incentive grant funds?

This incentive grant funding is available to Wisconsin public school districts. School districts may apply for funds for each pupil that earns a regular high school diploma or technical education high school diploma AND a certification from the approved 2014 CTE Technical Incentive Grant Certifications list.

Q: Are private, voucher or 2r charters schools included in this Act?

No. This incentive grant funding is available to Wisconsin public school districts.

Q: How much funding is available?

There is a maximum of \$3 million total allocated by the legislature in 2014-15 for the CTE Technical Incentive Grants. Funding is limited to \$1000 per pupil regardless of the number of certifications the student has earned on the approved 2014 CTE Technical Incentive Grant Certifications list. Please note that it is anticipated that there will be more than 3000 high school graduates eligible. This will result in prorating the allocated \$3 million funding accordingly. For 2014-15, fund awards may only be in the \$500-600 per student range.

Q: How is the grant funding to be used?

There are no restrictions on how the funding may be spent; however the legislation and incentive grant award is intended to support and enhance quality CTE programming that results in approved certifications that mitigate workforce shortages.

Q: How were the certifications chosen that appear on the approved 2014 CTE Technical Incentive Grant Certifications list?

Multiple factors and considerations were used to compile the approved [certifications list](#) for 2014-15. DPI staff reviewed a comprehensive list of both national and state certifications in the six career and technical education content areas; Agriculture and Natural Resources, Business and IT, Family and Consumer Science, Marketing and Entrepreneurship, Health Science, and Technology and Engineering which align with the 15 Career Clusters indicated as experiencing [workforce shortages](#). The following guidelines were considered for placement on this listing.

- Certifying Agency
 - Is the certifying agency nationally recognized within the industry sector?
 - Is the certifying agency accredited if it is an educational institution?
 - Is the certifying agency a Wisconsin state agency?
- Certification Validity
 - Is the certification endorsed by multiple companies within the industry sector?
 - Is a person with this certification considered more “desirable” or “hirable” by companies within the industry sector?
 - Is the certification recognition transferable to another company within the industry sector?
- Certification Program
 - Is training and certification eligibility accessible by high school students?
 - Is the certifying program comprehensive and rigorous enough to provide for technical skill practice and attainment?
 - Does the certification training target only one occupational task?
 - Were the certification requirements, training, and skill assessments reviewed, validated, and/or endorsed by industry sector representatives?
 - Does the certification provide entrance into further education and training if desired by the student?

This list will be reviewed annually and modified in response to labor market information and emerging certifications.

Q: Why isn't XYZ certification on this list? How will the approved certification list change? Can we get XYZ certification added to the list? What if ABC certification gets removed?

DPI plans to convene future business and industry sector groups to review and consider additional certifications for placement on the approved 2014 CTE Technical Incentive Grant Certifications list in the following year. At this point, the process for annual review is still being determined, but will likely occur in summer with updated lists published in fall so that school districts may plan for curricular changes accordingly. Certifications currently listed will not be removed without appropriate notification in order to accommodate students currently earning those certifications.

Q: How do we claim the funds? What is the current schedule for claiming funds?

The form for claiming to incentive grant funds is posted at:

http://cte.dpi.wi.gov/cte_technical-incentive-grants

Action Item	Date Due
Determine list of certifications earned by class of 2014 high school graduates	August 31, 2014
Compare certifications earned to the approved 2014 CTE Incentive Grant Certification List NOTE: <i>Certifications MUST be completed by August 31, 2014 to claim funds for this fiscal year.</i>	August 31, 2014
Obtain and store a copy of documentation verifying successful certification completion for each student that will be part of the grant claim. NOTE: <i>DPI will conduct sample audits of documentation confirming successful certification completion.</i>	October 31, 2014
Complete the DPI Form and submit for grant claim	October 31, 2014
Funds distributed by DPI to school districts	April 30, 2015

Q: What are “state –recognized embedded certificates that are part of a career pathway program” from the Wisconsin Technical College System?

The state-recognized career pathways certificates are a new offering that local technical colleges are developing in partnership with business and industry. These certificates are supported by employers and include a commitment to hire the certificate holder. In addition, they are reviewed by the Wisconsin Technical College System office for labor market information and workforce shortage data. While high school students may access these programs, it is unlikely that many will be able to complete them as they are akin to earning a technical diploma in high school. None of these certificates were operational as “state-recognized” in the 2013-14 academic year. The DPI CTE Technical Incentive Grant claim form will list these certificates once they become “state-recognized” in subsequent years.

Q: Do the dual credit program certificates from our local technical college count as “state-recognized embedded certificates as part of a career pathway program”?

While local technical college transcribed and advanced standing courses are valuable and desirable for enhancing and supporting high school CTE programming, these dual credit opportunities are not the same as the state-recognized career pathways certificates. As opposed to one dual credit class or a set of courses packaged together for a high school, the state recognized embedded certificates are developed with industry support and concurrent commitment to hire the certificate holder. A more specific list of these eligible programs will be made available later this year.

Q: Are students who pass the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) eligible for these grants?

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) courses are required as training to be eligible to take the [Wisconsin Nurse Aide Test](#). However, school districts are not considered eligible to claim these funds unless the student has passed the Pearson-Vue National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) test.